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NO DRASTIC CHANGES

Political gossip backstage in the nation's capital hints that when Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent forms his new Cabinet probably towards the year-end there is not going to be any drastic changes from the present lineup and that few men will be involved, possibly awaiting a date closer to a general election for a large-scale re-organization.

COMING TO CANADA

It is understood along Parliament Hill that Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, may come here shortly for top level talks with officials of the Canadian Government, including likely discussions regarding a loan extension and increase of trade with this country. Britain has now taken about \$1,000,000,000 of the \$1,125,000,000 Canadian loan given in 1946.

CHAIN STORES GETTING TRADE

Canadian Government's latest official report reveals here that chain stores are getting more business than the independent stores in the food retailing field throughout this country, judging from the latest national wide survey which discloses that 958 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field had 34.3% more dollar volume in their sales than 960 stores operated by the same 24 chains in June of this year as compared with June a

year ago. On the other hand, independent stores across the country showed a gain of only 12.5 % in June this year over a year ago. This leaves no doubt about the current trade in such sales.

SHORTAGE IS SERIOUS.

The housing problem in Canada is admittedly one of the most serious problems confronting the authorities in this capital and it has been termed a public "scandal" since the progress being made to solve this national problem is exceedingly slow. If not downright disappointing. There fore when it is stated that a meeting here that too few young men are willing to enter the construction trades and this is adding to the housing problem it is worth digesting.

It is reported that too few young men want to become apprentices and a serious shortage of such help is developing in the whole construction trade with the disclosure that rates of pay in the building industry are apparently not high enough to attract young men, the latter getting more lucrative offers in other and easier work. This indicates the kind of problem affecting building trades and why such disappointingly slow progress is being made to solve the overall housing problem. It is emphasized in well-informed circles here.

THEY WANT MORE

The Civil Service Federation is going all-out to get the largest employment of labor in this country, the Canadian Government, to grant its thousands of men and women workers a flat bonus of \$7.40 a month for each rise of 5 points in the official cost of living index beyond the figure reached on January 2, 1948, namely, 148.2 together with a flat bonus of \$31.50 a month to compensate for the rise in the cost of living of 22.8 points from September 1946 to January 2, 1948, with these amounts to be paid to all workers from the bottom of the salary scale to the top.

BUYER'S RESISTANCE

When the price of meat was boosted on account of the lifting of the export embargo, for shipments of cattle to the United States, reports reached Ottawa of a buyer's resistance forcing retail butchers to go easy on increases and in many stores scales dropped sharply. Likewise when eggs soared higher in some areas of Canada, a buyers resistance was quite effective so that merchants had actually lost money when they were unable to sell their supplies at the higher prices, offering the eggs that they were unable to sell at lower prices or otherwise disposing of them with little or no profit if not actual loss. There have been other instances of buyers resistance to higher prices.

As a result, it is evident now that attempts to charge all the traffic will bear, especially for foodstuffs are not meeting with success in the face of the general prosperity trends in Canada and income being about 25% higher today than at the war time peak, with officials in this nation capital watching with unusual interest these developments on the price front where the vicious inflationary circle is turning merrily right now but showing a strong tendency to be affected by the national forces of buyer's resistance.

BACON FOR BRITAIN

A report here reveals Canada will ask for "substantially higher" prices for bacon in the new 1949 British contract because it would have to be high enough to compete with the domestic prices and demands now expected to rise due to the soaring of best prices. Negotiations on the new contract are scheduled for this fall and the present price by contract is \$36. per hundredweight, with 145,000,000 pounds shipped out of agreed exports of 195,000,000 pounds. If higher prices are not fixed for such British shipments in future, it is feared here that there would be little if any, bacon for such export purposes.

UNEASINESS STANDS OUT.

Evidence already presented before the Royal Commission on Prices at its hearings in this capital has emphasized the Canadian tanning industry is obviously "nervous" about the future, with owners experiencing lower sales and profits in their transactions with witness after witness giving observers the impression that they are really anxious about the prevailing high price of leather which naturally affects the prices of footwear sold in Canada. Indeed the leather tanning industry favored the retention of price controls when the Government lifted them, it was brought out at these hearings here which are attracting much attention from price-conscious Canadians.

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further and protect bakers from further increases in the cost of their raw materials", said Cecil Morrison, President of the Morrison-Lamotte Bakery, Limited, and former Bakery Products Administrator for the War-time Prices and Trade Board, commenting upon price control on bread reimposed by the Government in an effort to keep prices down on this essential product.

"Right here in Canada we've got unlimited resources in talent but we've got to find out how to make use of it", remarked H. O. McMurray, Director National Art Gallery of Canada, emphasizing Canadian artists and manufacturers are linking hands to make Canadian goods more appealing to the eye.

"In the meantime the sisters go hungry but they keep up their mission of praying for the world and for their benefactors", declared Sister Mary Christine who came here to report on the desperate plight of her monastery in France.

"I would say yes, from my recollection", emphasized M. J. Daignault, manager of a chemical firm in testifying before the Royal Commission on Prices when asked if the lists of all major fertilizer producers quoted the same prices in any year.

"We hope especially to do business with the other Commonwealth countries", said Z. M. Kahn, spokesman for a trade delegation from Pakistan, India, when the group arrived here for discussions with top Canadian Government officials.

WEEKLY WIND-UP

Following the "courtesy" visit of Defence Secretary Forrestal of U.S. here, Rear Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's visit to this capital has been termed a "purely social" call, with his last visit to Ottawa being in 1942 when he was Chief of British Combined Operations Staff.

It is reported here that, in face of Australia's near record crop of sugar cane, Canada is likely to seek her supplies near to home from Cuba, Domingo, etc.

Political circles are whispering aloud along Parliament Hill that a new big political party will be organized in Quebec to back the Duplessis camp in the federal arena, with the probability of Mayor Houde of Montreal being leader.



Gurney

LARSEN'S ELECTRIC

The National Research Council here must approve entry permits for German scientists coming to Canada as immigrants. It is learned with one such expert on atomic studies said to have arrived in Canada recently.

A first class problem appears to be in the making for the Canadian Government when Newfoundland becomes part of Canada since this country has a policy of not leasing territory to any foreign government for bases and Newfoundland has such bases on which the United States (continued on back page.)

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